

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4296

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINSN PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING
THE PERIOD FROM MAY 27 TO JUNE 2, 1977.

2. MAY 28: AT 2030 HRS, POLICE GUARD AT MONTEVIDEO 496,
FEDERAL CAPITAL WAS INVOLVED IN A SHOOTING WITH TWO MEN IN
A VEHICLE BELIEVED TO BE TERRORISTS. THERE WERE NO INJURIES
AND THE TWO PERSONS ESCAPED.
AT 2230 HRS, THE POLICE BROADCASTED A GENERAL
ALERT TO ALL PRECINCTS AND PATROLS INFORMING THEM AS MAY 29
WAS THE CELEBRATION OF THE CREATION OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY
THEY ANTICIPATED POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST POLICE
AND MILITARY OBJECTS.
LA PRENSA REPORTED THAT IN HAEDO, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, A
CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND SECURITY
FORCES. THE TERRORISTS WERE LOCATED IN A HOUSE AT EL
CEIBO STREET. ARMY AND PROVINCIAL POLICE TOOK PART IN THE
CONFRONTATION WHICH LASTED 2-2 1/2 HOURS. VARIOUS REPORTS
STATED THAT FROM 16-20 TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. SECURITY
FORCES CONFISCATED BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, DOCUMENTS AND
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OTHER MATERIALS BELONGING TO THE MONTONEROS.
MAY 29: AT 2335 HRS, THE OCCUPANTS OF A PEUGEOT FIRED AT
A FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER ON DUTY AT GOVERNMENT
HOUSE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL. THE OFFICER WAS
NOT INJURED AND THE TERRORISTS ESCAPED.
ON THE SAME DATE THE PRESS REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF THREE
TERRORISTS ENTERED A SHOP LOCATED IN SAN MARTIN, BUENOS

AIRES PROVINCE, DISTRIBUTED TERRORIST PAMPHLETS AND
IGNITED FIREBOMBS. THEY ESCAPED UNAPPREHENDED.
PRESS SOURCES REPORTED THAT IN MORON, BUENOS AIRES PROV.,
SECURITY FORCES KILLED A TERRORIST IN A CONFRONTATION AT
A CHECKPOINT AT VIALE AND ALVERDIA STS. ON THE SAME DATE
IN BURZACO, BS. AS. PROV., A GROUP OF PERSONS BELIEVED
TO BE TERRORISTS STOLE FIVE NEW PEUGEOTS FROM A TRANS-
PORTATION TRUCK AT MONTE VERDE AND CORDOBA STS.
ON MAY 30, FEDERAL POLICE KILLED A PERSON BELIEVED TO
BE A TERRORIST IN A CONFRONTATION AT PEDRO GOYENA AND
J.M. MORENO STS.
ON MAY 31, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT SECURITY
FORCES HAD DISCOVERED A TERRORIST INFORMATION CENTER IN THE
AVELLANEDA DISTRICT. THE TERRORISTS WHO HAD BEEN MAINTAINING THE
CENTER ESCAPED.
ON THE SAME DATE, JOINT SECURITY FORCES KILLED
A TERRORIST DURING A CONFRONTATION IN THE MORENO DISTRICT
OF BS. AS. PROV. SECURITY FORCES REPORTEDLY CONFISCATED
SEVERAL THOUSAND HAND GRENADES. A TERRORIST REFUGE LO-
CATED AT SANTA FE 1700 IN MARTINEZ, SUBURB OF BS.AS., WAS
SEIZED BY SECURITY FORCES. DURING THE CONFRONTATION
TWO TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED
THAT FIVE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED DURING THIS PERIOD IN
VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF BS. AS. PROV. DURING INDIVIDUAL
CONFRONTATIONS WITH SECURITY FORCES AND THAT LITERATURE,
WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES AND A PRINTING PRESS FOR FORGING
DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND BY SECURITY FORCES.
LA RAZON REPORTED THE ASSASSINATION BY TERRORISTS
OF RET. COL. ANGEL ARTURO SUREDA AT THE INTERSECTION OF
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EMILIO CASTRO AND ESMERALDA. THE COL. WAS SHOT APPROXI-
MATELY 200 METERS FROM HIS HOME IN TEMPERLEY.
ON JUNE 1 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT FIVE TERRORISTS
(2 WOMEN AND 3 MEN) WERE SHOT DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH
SECURITY FORCES IN TEMPERLEY. THE TERRORISTS WERE MEM-
BERS OF THE MONTONERO ORGANIZATION. DURING THE CONFRON-
TATION TWO SECURITY OFFICIALS WERE ALSO INJURED.
ON JUNE 2, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT FIVE
TERRORISTS (3 MEN AND 2 WOMEN) WERE KILLED IN A CONFRON-
TATION IN THE TOWN OF LUIS GUILLON IN THE PROV. OF BS.AS.
THE CLASH TOOK PLACE ON PELLEGRINI ST. WHEN SECURITY
FORCES ENGAGED IN A CONTROL OPERATION WERE FIRED ON BY
THE TERRORISTS WHEN THEY WERE STOPPED AT A CHECKPOINT.
SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, BOMBS AND MONTONERO
LITERATURE WERE REPORTEDLY FOUND IN THE VEHICLE.
IN ANOTHER INCIDENT ON THE SAME DAY, A POLICE
CAR WAS ATTACKED FROM A PASSING VEHICLE NEAR PEREYRA
IRAOLA PARK IN BS. AS. PROV. THERE WERE NO INJURIES
AND THE ASSAILANTS ESCAPED.

3. RESO COMMENT: DURING INTERVIEW WITH SECURITY SOURCES RSO WAS INFORMED THAT ERP COMBATIVE FORCE NOW IS SLIGHTLY OVER 100 ON A COUNTRY-WIDE BASIS AND THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE DEPARTED THE COUNTRY. SOURCES ALSO STATED THERE IS A SERIOUS SPLIT IN THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT, A MINORITY FACTION FAVORS MOVING OUT OF A COMBATIVE ROLE INTO A MORE POLITICAL ROLE AND BREAKING WITH THE MARXIST ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY. THE OTHER FACTION FEELS THAT MILITARY ACTION MUST BE CONTINUED IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PARTY AS A POLITICAL FORCE.

4. SOURCES STATED THAT A REVIEW OF THE MONTONERO ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS PROVIDES TESTIMONY TO THEIR WEAKNESS. ON MAY 7, 1977 THEY MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI. THIS WAS THE HIGH POINT OF THEIR RECENT OPERATIONS.
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ON APR. 7 THEY FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AT A POLICE PATROL. ON APR. 26 THEY KILLED A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE AND THEY HAVE WAGED FOUR ATTACKS ON RAILROAD POLICE, TWO OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. COMPARED TO THE LOSSES AND SETBACKS THEY HAVE SUFFERED, THESE ARE MARGINAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS GENERALLY DIRECTED AT VERY SOFT TARGETS.

5. SOURCES STATED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE GOVT IS WINNING THE MILITARY COMBAT WITH THE TERRORIST BUT THE TERRORISTS STILL HAVE STRONG BASED POLITICAL/MEDIA SUPPORT ABROAD AND THE BATTLE WAS NOT OVER YET.
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